WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1    *Subal* ✓    1.    A method for distributing programming, the method comprising:

2              transmitting a first set of program segments according to a schedule of

3    programming;

4              storing a second set of program segments on a server, at least one of the first

5    set of program segments having a counterpart in the second set of program segments;

6              maintaining a database that records user authorizations to program segments

7    on the server;

8              detecting a request from a user for program control of a particular program

9    segment; and

10             determining whether to grant program control to the user.


1         2.    The method according to claim 1 wherein determining whether to grant

2    program control to the user comprises:

3              identifying the particular program segment; and

4              determining whether the particular program segment has a counterpart stored

5    on the server.


1         3.    The method according to claim 2 wherein determining whether to grant

2    program control to the user further comprises ascertaining whether the user is authorized to

3    access the counterpart to the particular program segment from the server.


1         4.   .   The method according to claim 1 wherein determining whether to grant

2    program control to the user comprises:

3              identifying the particular program segment; and

4              ascertaining whether the user is authorized to access the counterpart to the

5    particular program segment from the server.


1         5.    The method according to claim 1 wherein detecting the request from

2    the user for program control of the particular program segment comprises receiving a

3    wireless program-control request from a remote control.


1         6.    The method according to claim 1 further comprising granting

2    permanent program control over the particular program segment to the user.

1       7.     The method according to claim 6 wherein granting permanent program

2 control over the particular program segment to the user comprises storing the particular

3 program segment on the server indefinitely.

1       8.     The method according to claim 6 wherein granting permanent program

2 control over the particular program segment to the user comprises granting permission to the

3 user to copy the particular program segment from the server.

1       9.     The method according to claim 1 wherein the particular program

2 segment comprises one of a video program and an audio program.

1       10.     A method for distributing video programming, the method comprising:

2         storing a set of video program segments on a server;

3         preauthorizing a user to have program control over a subset of the video

4 program segments to establish a preauthorization scheme;

5         detecting a request from the user for program control of a particular video

6 program segment; and

7         granting program control to the user of the particular video program segment

8 in accordance with the preauthorization scheme.

1       11.     The method according to claim 10 wherein the subset of the program

2 segments is the set of program segments.

1       12.     The method according to claim 10 wherein detecting the request from

2 the user for program control of a particular program segment comprises receiving a wireless

3 program-control request.

1       13.     The method according to claim 10 wherein the server is local to the

2 user.

1       14.     The method according to claim 13 wherein the server is located on a

2 set-top box.

1       15.     A method for distributing programming, the method comprising:

2         transmitting a first set of program segments according to a schedule of

3 programming;

4         storing a second set of program segments on a server, at least one of the first

5   set of program segments having a counterpart in the second set of program segments;

6         preauthorizing a user to have program control over program segments on the

7   server to establish a preauthorization scheme;

8         maintaining a database that records user authorizations to program segments

9   on the server;

10         detecting a request from a user for program control of a particular program

11   segment; and

12         determining whether to grant program control to the user in accordance with

13   the preauthorization scheme.

1         16.     A system for distributing programming, the system comprising:

2         a transmitter configured to transmit a first set of program segments according

3   to a program schedule;

4         a server configured to store a second set of program segments, at least one of

5   the first set of program segments having a counterpart in the second set of program segments;

6         a database configured to record user authorizations to program segments on

7   the server;

8         a detector configured to detect a request from a user for program control of a

9   particular program segment; and

10         a control system in communication with the transmitter, the server, the

11   database, and the detector, the control system being configured to operate the transmitter, the

12   server, the database, and the detector to provide program control of program segments on the

13   server to the user in accordance with a predetermined authorization scheme.

1         17.     The system according to claim 16 wherein the control system is

2   configured to identify the particular program segment and to determine whether the particular

3   program segment has a counterpart stored on the server.

1         18.     The system according to claim 17 wherein the control system is further

2   configured to ascertain whether the user is authorized to access the counterpart to the

3   particular program segment from the server in accordance with the predetermined

4   authorization scheme.

1         19.    The system according to claim 16 wherein the control system is

2  configured to identify the particular program segment and to ascertain whether the user is

3  authorized to access the counterpart to the particular program segment from the server in

4  accordance with the predetermined authorization scheme.

1         20.    The system according to claim 16 wherein the particular program

2  segment comprises one of a video program and an audio program.

1         21.    A computer-readable storage medium having a computer-readable

2  program embodied therein for directing operation of a programming-distribution system

3  including a transmitter; a server; a database; a detector; and a control system configured to

4  provide program control of program segments on the server, the computer-readable program

5  including instructions for operating the programming-distribution system in accordance with

6  the following:

7         transmitting a first set of program segments with the transmitter according to a

8  schedule of programming;

9         storing a second set of program segments on the server, at least one of the first

10  set of program segments having a counterpart in the second set of program segments;

11         maintaining on the database a record of user authorizations to program

12  segments on the server; and

13         detecting a request from a user for program control of a particular program

14  segment.

1         22.    The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 21 wherein

2  the computer-readable program further includes instructions for operating the programming-

3  distribution system in accordance with determining whether to grant program control to the

4  user.

1         23.    The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 22 wherein

2  the instructions for operating the programming-distribution system in accordance with

3  determining whether to grant program control to the user include:

4         instructions for identifying the particular program segment; and

5         instructions for determining whether the particular program segment has a

6  counterpart stored on the server.

1          24.     The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 23 wherein

2 the instructions for operating the programming-distribution system in accordance with

3 determining whether to grant program control to the user further include instructions for

4 ascertaining whether the user is authorized to access the counterpart to the particular program

5 segment from the server.

1          25.     The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 21 wherein

2 the particular program segment comprises one of a video program and an audio program.

1          26.     The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 22 wherein

2 the instructions for operating the programming-distribution system in accordance with

3 determining whether to grant program control to the user include:

4          instructions for identifying the particular program segment; and

5          instructions for ascertaining whether the user is authorized to access the

6 counterpart to the particular program segment from the server.